



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court - Administrative Office of the Courts

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Justice John Pelander Announces Retirement

Phoenix – Arizona Supreme Court Associate Justice John Pelander provided notice of his retirement from the bench to Governor Doug Ducey, effective March 1, 2019. Justice Pelander has served on the supreme court for nine years, having been appointed by Governor Brewer in 2009. He previously served on the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division II for 14 years, including roles as Vice Chief Judge and Chief Judge.

Justice Pelander's legal career includes decades of service on committees and with organizations dedicated to the improvement of the law. In his letter to the governor, Justice Pelander expressed gratitude for the work itself, the people in the supreme court and throughout Arizona's courts, and for Arizona's merit selection process. Chief Justice Scott Bales commented: "For some twenty-three years, Justice Pelander has been an exemplary judge – a model for his wisdom, collegiality, and commitment to fairly upholding the law. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues on our Court and others in the judiciary, and we wish him the best in his retirement."

Upon retirement, Justice Pelander will return to his roots in southern Arizona and anticipates completing the cases granted review during his tenure. Under Arizona's merit selection system, the appellate nominating commission will receive and screen applications in early 2019 as part of the process for appointing a new justice to the court. Governor Ducey will make the appointment from a list of qualified candidates.

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